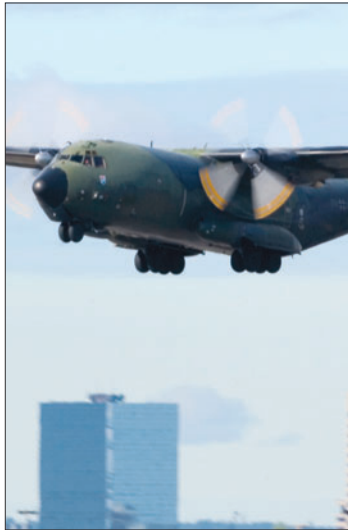


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PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN GARRETT HOTHAN



# Multinational CCT/RFA leaders discuss exercise

**Master Sgt. Debra Clayton**  
Cooperative Cope Thunder/  
Red Flag Alaska Public Affairs

Cooperative Cope Thunder/Red Flag Alaska 06-3 ends this week. Lots of planning, mission briefs, and flying activity have taken place and Alaska is gaining a reputation among world leaders as the ideal place for coalition building and joint combined training.

During the exercise, Col. Greg Nelson, CCT/RFA’s Air Expeditionary Group commander hosted an informal meeting with Col. Jeongkyu Woo, commander from the Republic of Korea Air Force, and Col. Mutsumi Fukushima, commander from the Japanese Air Self Defense Force.

During the meeting the commanders exchanged background information and discussed the significance of CCT/RFA.

“Our Guardsmen are here primarily to provide command support for all participants at Elmendorf,” said Colonel Nelson, in reference to the more than 30 Kentucky Air National Guardsmen here for CCT/



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN GARRETT HOTHAN

**Col. Mutsumi Fukushima, commander from the Japanese Air Self Defense Force (left), Col. Greg Nelson, Cooperative Cope Thunder/Red Flag Alaska Air Expeditionary Group commander and Col. Jeongkyu Woo, commander from the Republic of Korea Air Force discuss the significance of the multinational CCT/RFA exercise.**

RFA. “It is great to contribute to the overall cooperative engagement strategy of CCT – to train together as we

would fight,” he said.

“Alaska offers a realistic war-time training environment to combine with other forces and nations to show interoperability,” said the ROKAF colonel. This is Colonel Woo’s first time participating in CCT/RFA, but the ROKAF has sent forces to the exercise since 2001.

“We brought a team of about 30 Koreans to Alaska along with a C-130 tactical transporter. In addition to our C-130, maintenance personnel and our combat control team, we brought F-15K pilots as observers this year,” he said.

The Korean colonel further expressed that as ROKAF integrates the F-15K fighters into their inventory, they hope to bring their new weapon system to participate in future CCT/RFA exercises. He said that he hopes to learn more about mission planning and how to execute a multinational coalition exercise.

“We’re really enjoying the weather, the clear visibility and the

fresh air. Alaska is beautiful and the support from our U.S. host unit here is great.”

About 200 JASDF forces, under the direction of Colonel Fukushima deployed with a squadron of F-15Js, an E-767 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft, Ground Control Intercept controllers, and Stingers to Alaska and are participating in fighter exercises out of both Eielson and Elmendorf Air Force bases.

The JASDF is returning for the fourth year to CCT/RFA to participate with the U.S. and other nations in defense counter air missions as a bi-lateral partner.

At the close of the meeting, the ANG, ROKAF and JASDF colonels agreed that the vast air space available in Alaska make this a premier location for multinational and large force air power employment training.

They also agreed that one of the ultimate benefits of this exercise is the lasting friendships forged.

## Senior leaders meet for EOP

**By Master Sgt. Debra Clayton**  
Cooperative Cope Thunder/  
Red Flag Alaska Public Affairs

More than a dozen international flag officers are visiting both Elmendorf and Eielson Air Force Bases this week as part of the Pacific Air Forces Executive Observer Program to watch Cooperative Cope Thunder/Red Flag Alaska exercise.

Gen. Paul Hester, PACAF commander; and Lt. Gen. Doug Fraser, 11th Air Force commander are hosting senior-ranking airmen from Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Germany, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand and the United

Kingdom for the six-day EOP visit to demonstrate joint and combined aerial training in simulated combat environments.

There is a real-world payoff to exercises such as CCT/RF,” said General Fraser,” who provided some opening remarks to officially kick off the exercise at Elmendorf.

“Not only do these exercises demonstrate our commitment to peace and stability in the Pacific region, they also prepare the U.S. Air Force to fight in a coalition, like we are doing in Afghanistan and Iraq,” he said. “The lessons we learn during CCT/RF Alaska will help make us more effective combat warriors.”

CCT/RFA 06-3 exercise ends this week.



**Brig. Gen. Hawk Carlisle**  
3rd Wing commander

Do you have a problem you can’t seem to get solved? Would you like to recognize someone for a job well done?

The commander’s action line is your avenue to communicate your questions, comments and concerns directly to the commander, Brig. Gen. Hawk Carlisle. Your calls will get the commander’s personal attention and be answered in a timely manner.

If you have a question, call or e-mail the action line at:

**552-2224**  
**actionline@elmendorf.af.mil**

The following commanders stand ready to help you and can answer the majority of your questions. If they can’t help, then please call the Action Line.

### Key phone numbers:

Lt. Col. James Hodges, 3rd CES/CC  
552-3007  
Lt. Col. Michael Borgert, 3rd SVS/CC  
552-2468  
Lt. Col. Paul Story, 3rd SFS/CC  
552-4304



## Sourdough Sentinel

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For more information, call the *Sourdough Sentinel* office at 552-2493 or 552-8941, e-mail: [sourdough.sentinel@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:sourdough.sentinel@elmendorf.af.mil), fax us at 552-5111, or write to us at: 3rd WG/PA, 10480 22nd St. Ste. 119 Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506

## Elmendorf Moment in History

**Aug. 4, 1942:**

First Lt. Kenneth Ambrose and 1st Lt. Stanley Long became the first P-38 pilots to down an enemy aircraft in combat, they were assigned to the 54th Fighter Squadron. They each destroyed a Japanese Kawanishi HGK “Mavis” Patrol Plane over the Aleutians.





# Alaska's first F-22 tail flash unveiled

By Senior Master Sgt. Deborah VanNierop

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

MARIETTA, Ga. — Pacific Air Forces' officials got a glimpse into the future of fighter capability during a tail flash ceremony here Thursday in which PACAF's first F-22 Raptor was unveiled.

The aircraft, which is still under construction, will be the first of 36 F-22s assigned to Elmendorf beginning next year. The base will become home to two active-duty F-22 squadrons — the 90th and 525th Fighter Squadrons, as well as a reserve associate squadron, the 302nd FS. It was also announced today that Lt. Col. Mike Showers will be Elmendorf's first F-22 squadron commander. He will command the 90th FS.

With today's unveiling, PACAF officials unanimously agree the command is one step closer to ushering in a new era in fighter capability.

"I'm excited about getting this incredible new air dominance capability into the Pacific. F-22s based in Alaska in the near-term and Hawaii in the mid-term demonstrate the tremendous American commitment to the region by assuring security and stability for our nation, as well as for our friends and allies," said PACAF commander General Paul V. Hester. In the future, the aircraft will also be assigned to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. The 199th Fighter Squadron of the Hawaii Air National Guard will fly the F-22 and the 531st Fighter Squadron will be an Active associate squadron to them.

The Air Force's newly operational Raptors, stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Va., are already leaving a powerful impression in the fighter community.

In June, the F-22 was put to the test during Northern Edge 2006, a

two-week joint service exercise held in Alaska. The F-22's capabilities were highlighted during several air-to-air engagements that included facing an opposing force at a 4-to-1 disadvantage.

According to Lt. Col. Dane West, 1st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, the tremendous success of the Raptor was a result of team effort.

"In my 24 years, I've not seen a more coherent team of operators, maintenance contractors and support personnel," Lt. Col. West said. "The success to date didn't happen because of 'a' supply line or 'a' maintenance shift or 'an' operator. It happened because of a professional team focused on the mission-set to prove the strengths and weaknesses of this deployed airframe."

Maintenance for the Raptor also set benchmarks with mission completion by having an abort rate of less than 6.4 percent of all missions flown.

"Throughout the exercise we were able to see just how effective this jet can be integrating with multiple joint assets for a number of different missions," explained



COURTESY PHOTO

**Lockheed Martin officials unveil the first Alaska F-22 tail flash at the manufacturer's plant in Marietta, Ga., Thursday. The tail represents what will be two squadrons of 36 Raptors assigned to Elmendorf.**

Lt. Col. Wade Tolliver, 27th Fighter Squadron commander, Langley AFB, Va., and an F-22 pilot.

Perhaps even more impressive is how the F-22 is able to help other aircraft increase their performance. During Northern Edge, the Raptor was paired with joint-service jets such as F/A-18 Hornets, F-15C/E Eagles, E/A-6B Prowlers and E-2C Hawkeyes.

"The Raptor's success here (Northern Edge) is something that

should be shared among all the services, because it means our entire force has capabilities that it didn't have just a short time ago," Col. Tolliver said.

During a meeting with the Senate Armed Services Sub Committee, Secretary of the Air Force, Michael W. Wynne, gave an update to the Raptor's ability.

"The F-22A has performed excellently during exercises both in and out of the continental United States," the SECAF said, "dominating the current generation fighters, yet integrating seamlessly with ground based operations."

While today's unveiling was a historical event, Gen. Hester agrees that the arrival of the F-22 in PACAF is beneficial not just for the command but for the entire Air Force.

"I'm looking forward to leveraging all three components of our Total Force: Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve to squeeze every ounce of capability out of these great fighters. Our Total Force is critical in today's challenging environments ... and I couldn't be more pleased that all three elements are going to be fully engaged in the Raptor business," he said.

One of the duties Brig. Gen. Hawk Carlisle, 3rd Wing commander, performed while at the unveiling was signing the new AK tail flash.

"I wish there was a way for me to sign all 7,000 plus names of the men and women from the 3rd Wing on this tail flash," said the general. "Today is a landmark day for the entire Elmendorf family and I am truly honored to represent them here today. Marrying up the most dominant weapon system in the world with the incredible members of the 3rd Wing and the vast operational ranges of Alaska will be a union for the ages."

## Officials prepare for F-22

By Senior Master Sgt. Deborah VanNierop

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — As Pacific Air Forces prepares to bring the F-22 to the command next year the Headquarters PACAF F-22 Program Integration Office here is working hard to ensure no detail is overlooked.

The job is not a small task as the PIO staff is responsible for guiding, coordinating and synchronizing the PACAF-wide F-22 beddown efforts with Air Staff, Air Force Reserve Command, the National Guard Bureau, Air Combat Command, Air Force Materiel Command, the manufacturer and PACAF leadership. The staff, which consists of four officers, doesn't underestimate the magnitude of their task.

"We serve as the central Office of Primary Responsibility for all F-22 issues in PACAF," explained Lt. Col. Robert J. Craven, Chief, F-22 Program Integration Office.

Prior to the creation of the F-22 PIO, numerous PACAF teams were addressing their respective roles in the F-22 beddown effort; however, PACAF commander General Paul V. Hester felt a "consolidation of effort" was necessary.

"Bringing the F-22 to PACAF in Alaska and Hawaii is a huge undertaking. It's vital that our efforts are not wasted in redundancy and that we ensure we don't miss anything while planning to beddown these incredible new aircraft," the general said.

The F-22 PIO was chartered in April following a decision by General Hester. The team was formed and the staff opened its office for business the next day.

Additionally, the composition of the staff is a reflection of the same Total Force Integration that will exist in PACAF's F-22 squadrons. Two of the officers are active duty, one is a reservist and the other a guardsman. Three of the officers are F-15 pilots and one is an F-16 pilot.

"This reflects the pool from which most F-22 pilots are drawn. The vast range of active duty, reserve and guard fighter experience and operational expertise these pilots bring to this TFI team is truly greater than the sum of its parts. They are ideally equipped to tackle the tough challenges associated with getting PACAF's F-22s in place," Lt. Col. Craven said.

However, the PIO staff is quick to point out that they could not function without the direct support of more than 30 subject matter experts from every functional area in the command.

"These experts work the difficult details within their respective functional areas while we guide, coordinate and synchronize their numerous individual efforts," Col. Craven explained.

"Together, the F-22 PIO and our army of experts form a cross-functional 'dream team,' and we're determined to make the beddown of the F-22 in PACAF a tremendous success."



# AWACS provides command and control for CCT/RFA

By Master Sgt. Debra Clayton

Cooperative Cope Thunder/  
Red Flag Alaska Public Affairs

The NATO E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System looks much like any other cargo plane, except for a 30-foot diameter rotodome mounted above the aircraft’s fuselage.

Once onboard the plane, it’s obvious the rotodome is less of a style feature, but has a very significant function. It has radar and various electronic sensors capable of detecting low-flying targets within 215 nautical miles and medium altitude targets within 280 nautical miles, in a full 360 degree circle.

Inside the aircraft are consoles, radar screens and a crew of diverse air force personnel manning those positions. Airborne warning and control system, hence the term – AWACS, describes the aircraft’s primary function: airborne surveillance, command, control and communications.

For the past two weeks the NATO AWACS and crew have participated in Cooperative Cope Thunder/Red Flag Alaska 06-3 exercise scenarios. As the command and control element for the exercise, they have alternated flying missions with Elmendorf’s AWACS from the 962nd Airborne Control Squadron.

Multinationality is a key characteristic for the NATO AWACS. Fifteen nations participate in the AWACS program with 13 providing personnel to the NATO E-3A Component.

On this particular flight, the AWACS from NATO Air Base, Geilenkirchen Germany, had 10 different nationalities represented. The 17-member crew included aircrew members, weapons controllers, surveillance operators, and communications and radar technicians.

Belgian Maj. Luc Colin, the tactical director, explained that while the AWACS primary role is surveillance, they also conduct tactical management such as support and control of friendly aircraft involved in offensive and defensive counterair operations.

For CCT/RFA exercise, the AWACS have had a dual role playing red air and blue air forces. During this particular mission, Major Colin said, “We are the bad guys (red air) and some of our troops, in certain areas, are now defended by surface-to-air missiles and our guys are going to first, suppress the missiles; second, drop bombs on the enemy; and third, get our transporters to fly en route to drop supplies to the troops still in those areas. At the same time, we have to defend against the enemy air forces that will try to attack all our forces.

“For any given mission, we can conduct close air support, battlefield air interdiction, combat search and rescue, reconnaissance, tactical air transport and air-to-air refueling,” said Major Colin.

The NATO AWACS have participated in past CCT exercises. But, for many on the crew, this was their first time.



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN GARRETT HOTHAN

**NATO Members conducts pre-flight checks on an E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft. NATO is in Alaska participating in Cooperative Cope Thunder along with other multinational aircrews.**

“It’s really nice to get to train in exotic places like Alaska,” said Danish Master Sgt. Glenn Galthen, radar technician. “Our multi-mode radar is able to separate moving targets from ground clutter by use of the Doppler principle,” he said. “We are able to detect and track low flying aircraft. My job is to ensure that no other aircraft works on our frequency or interferes with our airspace.”

“Cooperative Cope Thunder/RFA exercises provide great training opportunities to plan and execute these missions,” said Italian Maj, Stefano Cianfrocca, NATO AWACS aircraft commander.

“Our overall mission is to provide aircraft and trained aircrews to deliver surveillance and/or airspace control capability whenever and wherever needed to support the alliance objectives.

“Exercises such as CCT/RFA allow us to sharpen our air combat skills with partners from other air forces,” he said.

The NATO AWACS has been called on to support a wide range of operations. After Sept. 11, 2001, NATO deployed AWACS to the U.S. to fly a variety of security support missions, freeing the U.S. AWACS to operate in Afghanistan.

# New uniform on track for distribution

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

The new Airman Battle Uniform is moving into production and on track for distribution to deploying Airmen next summer.

Patterns have been finalized and are being run through production to ensure sizing and garment construction as well as preparing for assembly-line operations, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, the Air Force uniform board superintendent.

Senior leaders want the warfighters to get the first ABUs, and Airmen deploying in the air and space expeditionary cycle 7/8 in May 2007 will receive two sets each of the new ABU and the current deployment uniform, the Desert Combat Uniform.

Airmen embedded with Army units will get four ABU sets which lets them blend in more with their service counterparts.

While the Army and the Air Force combat/battle uniforms will look similar from a distance, the Air Force distinctive pattern includes a slate-blue shade in addition to foliage green, desert sand and urban gray shades. The pattern is pixilated or “digital” like the Marine Corps and Army but is based on a pixilated Vietnam-era tiger stripe pattern.



While the ABU has been in production for about four and a half years, the Air Force has had numerous hurdles to overcome.

The ABU is the first utility uniform designed in both male and female sizes to replace the DCU and “woodland” patterned Battle Dress Uniform.

The ABU will be worn in the desert, stateside bases and in environments for which the BDU was originally designed. And it has been redesigned from the largely unpopular blue-tiger striped pattern initially fielded, most recently with additions of extra pockets, after feedback Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley got when he was visiting Airmen in Southwest Asia.

Considering the final changes and configurations were made this past January and the ABU will begin rolling off the assembly line in January 2007, Sergeant Athnos said the ABU is on track and moving forward as planned.

After distribution to Airmen deploying next summer, Airmen in basic training will be issued the ABU beginning in October 2007.

Once that distribution system is in place, the ABU will be available in AAFES outlets for purchase.

The expected mandatory wear date for the ABU is 2011.



## Final Galena re-enlistment

Staff Sergeant Laurie Saam, 611th Civil Engineer Squadron, recites her oath of enlistment as Colonel Joe Skaja, 611th Air Support Group Commander, performs the final active duty Air Force reenlistment at the Forward Operating Location at Galena Airport, Alaska. Galena Airport has been a location that Elmendorf warfighters have used to support the Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Region mission since the beginning of the Cold War. Under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act, the Galena mission has been relocated to Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. The Air Force will end its daily presence at Galena at the end of Fiscal Year 2008.

**Value your stripes? Don't drink and drive,  
call Airmen Against Drunk Driving  
552-HOME (4663)**





Muldoon Gate

The Muldoon Gate will re-open Monday. The hours of operation are 6 a.m.-8 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. Monday - Friday. When school starts, the afternoon hours will change to 2-6 p.m. The gate will be open for the Arctic Thunder 2006 Air Show from 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

Commander’s call

There will be a 3rd Wing commander’s call Aug. 25 in Hangar 5, Bldg. 7309 following the 3rd Maintenance Group Load Crew of the quarter competition. All personnel are asked to be in place by 8:45 a.m. The competition will start at 9 a.m. and the commander’s call will follow.

Spouse TA

The date to apply for Spouse Tuition Assistance for classes beginning in August and September was July 26 for University of Alaska, Central Texas College and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. The deadline for Wayland Baptist University is August 9.

For more information call the Education Center at 552-3164.

Road closure

The intersection of Necrason and 22nd Street will be closed Monday-Thursday for storm drain installation.

MPF customer queue

Anyone needing a Department

of Defense identification card can sign in at the Military Personnel Flight customer service office, and then monitor their status via Sharepoint at <https://portal.elmendorf.af.mil>.

You must be present when your name is called.

SNCO Induction Ceremony

The SNCO Induction ceremony for newly selected master sergeants takes place Sept. 8 at the Anchorage Hilton. The fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Robert Gaylor, is the speaker.

The meal costs \$35 and includes a choice of Alaskan halibut or roast beef.

R.S.V.P. by Aug. 11 by e-mailing [sncoi.2006@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:sncoi.2006@elmendorf.af.mil).

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Shannon Moore at 552-7088.

Bargain Shop sale

The Bargain Shop will have a bag sale Wednesday- Aug. 21. Shoppers can fill a grocery bag with select items and pay \$3.

Summer hours for the Bargain Shop will end Aug. 16.

For more information, call 753-6134 or log on to [www.elmendorfso.com/bargainshop.htm](http://www.elmendorfso.com/bargainshop.htm).

Items needed to register vehicle

People who need to obtain a DD Form 2220, *Department of Defense*

*Sticker*, or DD Form 2219, *Year Decal*, must present these documents to register or deregister any vehicles on the base, including updating expired DD Form 2219s:

- Valid DoD ID card
- Valid state drivers license
- Current vehicle registration from any state and it must be a permanent registration, not temporary
- An Air Force Form 75, *Vehicle Pass*, will be issued for all temporary and foreign registrations
- Valid proof of insurance
- A valid IM/Emissions Certificate for vehicles two model years or older

Additionally, if a vehicle is registered in another state not requiring an IM/Emissions test, but is two model years or older, it’s still required by the Municipality of Anchorage to have a valid IM/Emission Certificate.

Child care

The Elmendorf Child Development Centers have immediate openings for full-time care for 2-year-olds.

Call Resources and Referrals at 552-7840 for more information.

Loaner furniture

Long-term loaner furniture is available for accompanied and unaccompanied staff sergeants and below authorized to live off base.

This furniture is limited and issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The furniture may be used for the duration of the member’s tour. However, they must pick up and return these items.

Airmen interested in borrowing the furniture should bring their address and one copy of their orders 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays to the housing office at 6346 Arctic Warrior Dr. For more information, call 552-4439 or 552-2599.

African American Heritage Committee

The African American Heritage committee is meeting at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Susitna Club Daedalian room. The committee is seeking volunteers to help plan upcoming events.

For more information, call Senior Airman Saroya Warren at 249-1109.

Volunteer meeting

The Military and Family Readiness Center will host a Volunteer

Action Council Meeting Thursday. The meetings are held the second Thursday of every month, and is a great venue to continue the spirit of volunteerism and help support individuals and organizations in need of assistance.

For more information, call Rocky Latta at 552-8086 or Master Sgt. Phil Wilson at 552-8679.

Home buying seminar

The Elmendorf Housing office is offering a home buying seminar at 1 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Housing Office, 6346 Arctic Warrior Drive. The class lasts approximately two to three hours.

Seating is limited; call 552-4439 or 552-4328 for reservations.

Arctic Bazaar

The Elmendorf Officers’ Spouses’ Organization Bazaar committee is now accepting applications from craft vendors for their upcoming Oct. 14 bazaar. The bazaar features “unique

to Alaska” and/or hand-crafted merchandise. This is a one day, “open base” event which runs from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Booth fees are \$100 for a 10 x 10 foot space. 100 percent of booth fees go toward the EOSO’s many charitable causes.

If you have items to sell, consider joining our event as a vendor.

You can access the vendor application or read more about the Arctic Bazaar at [www.elmendorffoso.com](http://www.elmendorffoso.com) or by calling Sandra at 694-1106.

Spouse reintegration fair

Spouse Reintegration Fair registration is now open to all military spouses. Learn about: the deployment and reunion cycle, what to expect at reunification and reintegration, and how to re-connect with your loved one.

There are more than \$10,000 in prizes available. The four sessions take place from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and

6-8 p.m. Aug. 4, and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Aug. 8.

Space is limited. Volunteers are needed to provide on-site child care for the re-integration fair. Approximately 40 two and a half hour time slots need to be filled.

If you are interested in registering for the fair, or volunteering your time for child care, call Melanie at 552-0713.

Stand Down 2006

Stand Down 2006 is from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Aug. 18 and 8 a.m. - noon Aug. 19 at Camp Carroll at Fort Richardson.

Stand Down is a community-wide event designed to provide veterans in need with information on shelter, counseling, housing, medical and dental care, employment/job training, veteran benefits, legal issues, social security, social skills, emotional well-being and more.

For more information, call 428-6010.

USAF Band of the Pacific

The United States Air Force Band of the Pacific’s Alaska Brass is performing at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Anchorage Town Square. The Alaska Brass features a unique instrumentation of five brass plus percussion and performs a variety of music Styles.

The Sunday performance is free to the public. For more information, call 552-3081.







PHOTO BY AIRMAN JONATHAN STEFFEN

### Staff Sgt. Cheryl Chowning

**Organization and duty title:** 3rd Medical Operation Squadron Labor and Delivery Technician  
**Hometown:** Dallas, Texas  
**Hobbies:** Softball and taking care of her husband and two dogs  
**Mission Contributions:** Assists military members and their families with labor and delivery of their babies and postpartum care. Provides life saving measures and comfort.  
**Time at Elmendorf:** Eight months  
**Time in Air Force:** Nine years  
**Best part about being in Alaska:** Getting a second chance at seeing the sights, which I did not see the first time I was stationed here.”  
**Quote from supervisor:** “Sergeant Chowning has shown dedication, attention to detail, and unmatched professionalism since her arrival. Her work ethic has definitely placed her a cut above the rest. She is a major asset to Perinatal Services, 3rd Medical Group, and the Air Force.” Tech. Sgt. Vincent Duckett

### Tech. Sgt. William Patton

**Organization and duty title:** 206th Combat Communications Squadron Network Systems Supervisor  
**Hometown:** Plano, Texas  
**Hobbies:** Hiking, computers, movies, do-it-yourself home improvements  
**Mission contributions:** Manages all servers and switches of the Network Control Center-Deployable communications suite  
**Time at Elmendorf:** Four years, 11 months  
**Time in the Air National Guard:** Five years  
**Best part about being in Alaska:** It’s home  
**Quote from supervisor:** “Sergeant Patton is a team player and great asset to the unit. His extensive knowledge of computer networking has proved invaluable during several contingency operations that he has participated in.” Master Sgt. Rodney Hansen



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN GARRETT HOTHAN



# Article 15s, discharges

**Article 15s:**  
An airman first class from the 517th Airlift Squadron was derelict in the performance of his duties by willfully failing to refrain from using his government travel card for official use only.

His punishment was a reduction to the grade of airman.

A staff sergeant from the 3rd Medical Support Squadron assaulted another military member by pushing and punching the member in the chest and face.

His punishment was a reduction to grade of senior airman.

An airman from the 3rd Component Maintenance Squadron was absent without leave from his place of duty and made a false official statement to his first sergeant.

His punishment was a reduction to the grade of airman basic, suspended forfeiture of \$636 pay for two months and 30 days extra duty.

An airman first class from the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received a vacation action for absenting himself

from his place of duty without leave and for losing his career development course study material along with his training records.

A vacation action imposes a suspended punishment that had been adjudged by a previous Article 15.

In this case his punishment was a reduction to the grade of airman.

A senior airman from the 3rd CMS intended to defraud an off-base business, and wrote insufficient checks from a closed bank account.

His punishment was a reduction to the grade of airman first class with a suspended reduction to airman, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A senior airman from the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron committed adultery.

His punishment was a reduction to the grade of airman first class and 30 days extra duty.

An airman first class from the 3rd CMS consumed and possessed alcoholic beverages in his dormitory and provided alcoholic beverages

to persons under the legal drinking age of 21.

His punishment was a suspended reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$250 pay for two months and 30 days extra duty.

A senior airman from the 3rd AMXS was drunk on duty.

His punishment was a forfeiture of \$250 pay for two months and 21 days extra duty.

**Discharges:**  
A senior airman with the 3rd Medical Operations Squadron was administratively discharged for minor disciplinary infractions.

The member’s misconduct included an Article 15, four Letters of Reprimand and two Letters of Counseling for misconduct for being abusive and communicating a threat to his wife, filing a false or misleading claim, failing to properly sterilize surgical instruments, mislabeling three scopes and failing to properly handle a specimen.

The member’s misconduct resulted in a General Discharge.

*(Courtesy of the 3rd Wing Legal Office)*

## Arctic Thunder 2006 information

Aug. 12-13  
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

■ Government Hill, Muldoon, Fort Richardson (via Grady Hwy) and Boniface will be open to all Department of Defense card holders. Boniface will be the only gate open to civilians and will be open to inbound traffic only from 8-10 a.m. and outbound traffic only from 4:30- 6 p.m.

■ Post Road Gate is open to support personnel only. Anyone without a support windshield pass will be redirected to another gate.

■ Hangar 5 is the preferred parking area for base residents. A shuttle bus will operate from Hangar 5 beginning at 8 a.m.

■ Base residents are encouraged to walk, bicycle, or carpool to the show.

■ Avoid delays by arriving early

■ Traffic from Ft Rich will be routed down Grady Highway. The Davis Highway will be closed during the airshow. Government Hill and Muldoon are alternate options.

■ Busses will run from East High School, Bartlett High School and Fort Richardson approximately every 20 minutes beginning at 8 a.m. Traffic from Eagle River and the valley should park at Fort Richardson and ride a shuttle.

■ Vehicles must be parked in appropriate lots, unauthorized vehicles will be towed

■ Do not block streets with vehicles

**Arrive early and be patient – the goal is to have a safe, fun weekend**



# Deployed weather troops keep base informed

**By Staff Sgt. Celena Wilson**  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

How hard is it to tell what the weather is in the desert in the middle of the summer? You can just go outside and say ‘Yup. It’s hot.’

But the members of the 379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight will tell you different. It takes teamwork, communication and lots of equipment to get that weather forecast.

The weather information the flight provides enables weapons to be delivered at a particular place, at a specific time by shaping the aircrew’s awareness of any and all adverse weather conditions and enhancing their ability to overcome and exploit these conditions. From mission planning to execution to recovery, weather conditions dictate the manner in which the mission is accomplished.

“What we bring to the fight is the information of what the atmosphere is doing and what it is going to do, and more importantly, how that

will impact the mission to be accomplished,” said Capt. J.R. Hanamean, Weather Flight commander.

“It may be hot here and doesn’t change much, but other factors such as fog, humidity, dust and wind speeds can change very quickly and we have to do everything to

keep the pilots safe and the base populace informed,” said Tech. Sgt. Ceaser Webb, deployed from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

One of the forecasters’ jobs is to compile all of the current weather conditions gathered by some to their weather equipment such as the tactical meteorological observing system, or T-MOS, and the Mark IVB, a satellite display and

analysis system. They then forecast what the weather is doing or going to do within the AOR for flights scheduled for that day. This is one of the most important jobs these six forecasters have.

“Without us no aircraft can get off the ground,” said Tech. Sgt. Tina Stott, deployed from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. “Without our weather forecasts, these pilots would be out there flying blind and would never know what was really out there. We try to keep them clear of the various weather hazards, especially the sand storms.”

“Weather is critical to mission success, especially concerning flying operations,” said Staff Sgt. Scott Capodice, deployed from Langley

AFB, Va. “We brief all flights out of here which are in direct and indirect support of all Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom operations and are out there doing a number of different missions. Whether it be a fighter, tanker, bomber or cargo aircraft, we brief them all and having the timely and accurate weather is critical to their mission accomplishment.”

The flight hit the ground running and hasn’t missed a step in this high ops-tempo shop.

“Considering that most of the individuals have not deployed before and are not familiar with combat operations or Southwest Asian weather, having more experienced personnel on each shift gives us an advantage over having an unbalanced or inexperienced flight,” said Master Sgt. Kimberly Lester, Weather Flight NCO in charge. “With a more balanced rank structure, the likelihood that some of the more senior members have worked with tactical equipment, have knowledge on how weather impacts this area and have supervisory experience

has been very valuable to our ops considering we only get one to two days of training before we are certified to work on our own. In normal weather stations, the training timeline is at least four to six weeks.

“The folks here are eager to learn and didn’t arrive with any preconceived ideas about operations and/or support,” she said. “We have a great balance of forecasters in our office who get the job done.”



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CELENA WILSON

**Senior Airman Daniel Perry, 379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight forecaster, takes a wind speed reading with a Kestral 4000. Airman Perry, stationed at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., is one of six combat weather forecasters deployed to the 379th EOSS.**

## Deployed servicemembers participate in commemorative march



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CANDY KNIGHT

**Tech Sgt. Bryce Vanoverbeke, 376th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, crosses the finish line of the Manas’ Mini-Nijmegen march. Members of the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing took part in a 15.5 mile walk to commemorate the Nijmegen International Peace March, a four-day, 100-mile march held annually in Holland. Sergeant Vanoverbeke, deployed from the 611th Civil Engineer Squadron, Elmendorf, won first place.**

**By Staff Sgt. Candy Knight**  
376th AEW Public Affairs

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan – In a show of camaraderie, teamwork and respect for history, 76 servicemembers from the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing took part in a Mini-Nijmegen march July 23.

The event, sponsored by Manas’ Enlisted Councils, was designed to simulate the Nijmegen International Peace March, a four-day, 100 mile march held annually in Holland.

“The purpose of this event is to celebrate the Nijmegen March and hopefully help build esprit de corps among the team members and between the units,” said Tech. Sgt. William Gordon, event organizer.

Participants in the

Manas’ Mini-Nijmegen walked 15.5 miles on a rural route which took them through many sections of the base that are normally not accessible.

However, unlike the original march, the wear of DCUs and 22-kilograms backpacks was optional. But that didn’t stop some members from “gearing up.” Neither did the 90 plus degree heat. Participants also knew that they were helping to raise funds for the numerous charities sponsored by the councils.

“I felt a sense of accomplishment after completing the march,” said Senior Airman Ilya Dayter, 376th AEW. “Knowing that I also helped raise money for a good cause makes the pain and blisters I have now worth it.”

“This was a perfect combination of a great

cause to celebrate a great event and raise money for great causes. It was great to see so many Airmen out there showing camaraderie and teamwork and I am proud to have participated,” said Maj. Mark Anarumo, 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron commander.

According to 1st Lt. Tobey Hockridge, 376th AEW, taking part in this event has inspired him to compete in similar events, albeit with more training.

“I intend on participating in the Bataan Memorial Death March schedule for March 25. It is a 26.2-mile event through the desert in honor of those who survived and those who did not survive the historical event of the same name during World War II,” he said.



# Army helps Airmen practice load drops



Above: Army Specialist Josh Paiugod and Army Sergeant Mark Wido, 501st Airborne, repack their parachute after a jump at the Malamute Drop Zone on Fort Richardson. HC-130s from Yakota Air Base, Japan, participating in Cooperative Cope Thunder/Red Flag Alaska, dropped the Soldiers.

Top middle: Army Chaplain (Capt.) Daniel Hardin with the 4th Brigade Combat Team carries a medallion of the jumper's patron saint the Archangel Michael during a St. Michael's Jump. Members of the 4th Brigade boarded two C-130s manned by the 376th Airlift Squadron during CCT/RFA.

Middle: Capt. Vincent Zabala and Maj. Peter Dugas, 376th Airlift Squadron, study maps for the Malamute Air Drop.

Top Right: An HC-130 from the 376th Airlift Squadron, Yakota Air Base, Japan, lands on a dirt runway at the Malamute Drop Zone at Fort Richardson, to pick up troops with the U.S. Army Alaska's 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne). This was the first time a transport aircraft landed at the drop zone to pick up soldiers.

Above: An HC-130 from the 376th Airlift Squadron, drops soldiers from the 4th BCT over the Malamute Drop Zone.

Left: Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) load up on a 376th AS and prepare to jump at the Malamute Drop Zone.

Photos by Senior Airman Garrett Hothan





# Services Eaglet

"Telling the Services Story" in daily activities and special events for the Elmendorf community

## Back to School

Participate in any or all of these activities  
and your name will be put in the drawing for  
great back-to-school items

in 3rd Services

Dine with your parents  
at the Susitna Club any time  
during the month of August  
and sign up for all kinds of  
cool stuff for school  
Susitna Club  
753-3131

Back to School  
Fun Run  
noon Aug. 18  
Sign ups at 11 a.m.  
Children welcome  
Fitness Center  
552-5353



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Win one of four student  
desks to be given away  
at these events  
  
Giveaway may not be  
as pictured  
  
No federal endorsement  
of sponsor intended



Back to School Arts and Crafts Camp  
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Aug. 11  
\$130 for ages 5-15  
Bring lunch, snacks, drinks, and  
wear an old t-shirt  
Limit 10, so make your reservations  
early by contacting the Arts & Crafts  
Center at 552-7012 or 552-2478

Polar  
Bowl's  
Back to  
School  
Party

Xtreme  
Bowling  
with a DJ  
2-6 p.m.  
Aug. 27  
sodas and  
snacks  
\$5 with  
advanced  
sign up  
\$6 at the door



### Today

**Belly Dancing** 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$40 per month, eight-week sessions for ages 13 and older, Arctic Oasis, 552-8529

**RC DJ** (The Rajun Cajun) 9 p.m.-3 a.m., adults only, Kashim Club, 753-6131

**Club Member Social Hour** 5-6 p.m., adults only, Kashim Lounge, 753-6131 and The Cave, 753-3131

**Give Parents a Break** 7-11 p.m., Air Force Aid Society program intended to give parents a break during unusual hardships, must have a referral and a reservation, Denali Child Development Center, 552-8304

**Senior State Amateur Golf Tournament** through Aug. 6, Eagle Glen Golf Course, 552-3821

**Alaska Native Heritage Center** noon-5 p.m., ages 9-12, Youth Center, 552-2266

**Basic Automotive Services Class** 5 p.m., by appointment, \$20, Auto Hobby, 552-3473

### Saturday

**Beginner Watercolor** 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., \$45 plus supplies, Arts & Crafts, 552-7012 or 552-2478

**Pottery "Sculpting in Clay"** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. also Aug. 12, 19 and 26, \$65 plus clay and glazes, Arts & Crafts, 552-7012 or 552-2478

**Xtreme Bowling with a DJ** 9 p.m.-1 a.m., \$18 per person including shoe rental, Polar Bowl, 552-4108

### Anchorage to Seward Road Bike

**Ride** 7 a.m., \$20 plus bike rental if needed, advanced sign-up required, Outdoor Recreation, 552-2023

**Beginner Sign Language for the Deaf/ASL** 5-7 p.m. also Aug. 12, 19 and 26, \$45 plus dictionary, Arts & Crafts, 552-7012 or 552-2478

**Kid's Corner "Ceramic Painting"** 1-3 p.m., ages 3-15, \$15, sign-up early, Arts & Crafts, 552-7012 or 552-2478

**DJ Karaoke** 9 p.m., adults only, Kashim Lounge, 753-6131

### Sunday

**Family Xtreme Bowling** 1-8 p.m., \$30 for up to six bowlers, shoe rental, one lane for two hours, two pitchers of soda and popcorn, Polar Bowl, 552-4108

**Sunday Brunch** 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., \$16.95 *Members First* price, \$19.95 regular price, \$7.95 for children age 6-12, Susitna Café, 753-3131

### Monday

**Kenpo Karate** 6-7 p.m. for children and families, 7-8 p.m. for adults only, \$30 per month, ages 4 to adult, Arctic Oasis, 552-8529

**Monday Evening Road Bike Ride** 5:30 p.m., \$6 bike rental if needed, Outdoor Recreation, 552-2023

### Tuesday

**Yoga** 10-11 a.m., \$40 per month, ages 13 and older, Arctic Oasis, 552-8529

### Family Child Care Training and

**Orientation** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. through Aug. 11, Family Child Care, 552-3995

**MusicGarten** 9:30-10:05 a.m. for ages 3-5 and 10:15-10:45 a.m. for children 16 months to 3 1/2 years, singing, dancing, listening and playing simple instruments, \$30 per month, Arctic Oasis, 552-8529

### Wednesday

**Kenpo Karate** 6-7 p.m. for children and families, 7-8 p.m. for adults only, \$30 per month, ages 4 to adult, Arctic Oasis, 552-8529

**Kayak Training** 5-8 p.m., \$25, prerequisite for other kayak trips, advanced sign-up required, Outdoor Adventure Program, 552-2023

### Thursday

**Thursday Evening Mountain Bike Ride** 5 p.m., \$5 bike rental if needed, Outdoor Recreation, 552-2023

**Thursday Night Madness** 5-9 p.m., \$18 per lane, up to five bowlers, shoes not included, Polar Bowl, 552-4108

**Morning Coffee Conversation** 10:30 a.m., book club for spouses of deployed military members, Arctic Oasis, 552-8529

**Children's Story and Craft Time** 10-11:30 a.m. crafts, games and stories for children whose parents are involved in other Community Center programming during this time, ages three and older, Arctic Oasis, 552-8529

### Swimming at Ft. Richardson

1-5 p.m., \$2, Teen Center, 552-2266

**Yoga** 10-11 a.m., \$40 per month, ages 13 and older, Arctic Oasis, 552-8529

### August 11

**Preschool Registration** 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Katmai Part Day Preschool, 552-2697

**Rock Gym** noon-5 p.m., ages 9-12, Youth Center, 552-2266

### Now Showing

at the Talkeetna Theater

Today	No movie	
Saturday	3 p.m.	G
	<b>The Frog Prince</b>	
	<i>Free presentations by local youth as part of Missoula Children's Theatre</i>	
	Deep in the royal swamp, a lonely frog retrieves a golden ball for Princess Prim in exchange for her friendship. The spoiled princess doesn't want to live up to her part of the bargain and so the trouble begins. Frog gets some good advice from the wise old Aspen tree, the well-read Alligator, and the kindly Swamp Things. The Ducks, a busy Fly and dancing Flamingos also come to Frog's assistance. Even the Queen, kindly Princess Proper, and spunky Princess Peppy get involved and, despite the trouble caused by the nasty Venus Fly Traps, all ends happily. Our hero becomes a Prince (formerly known as Frog) and realizes that friendships are made, not bought—and he discovers that it is not what you are but who you are that counts.	
Saturday	7 p.m.	G
	<b>The Frog Prince</b>	
Sunday	No movie	



# What a Relief

By **Capt. Tony Wickman**  
71st Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

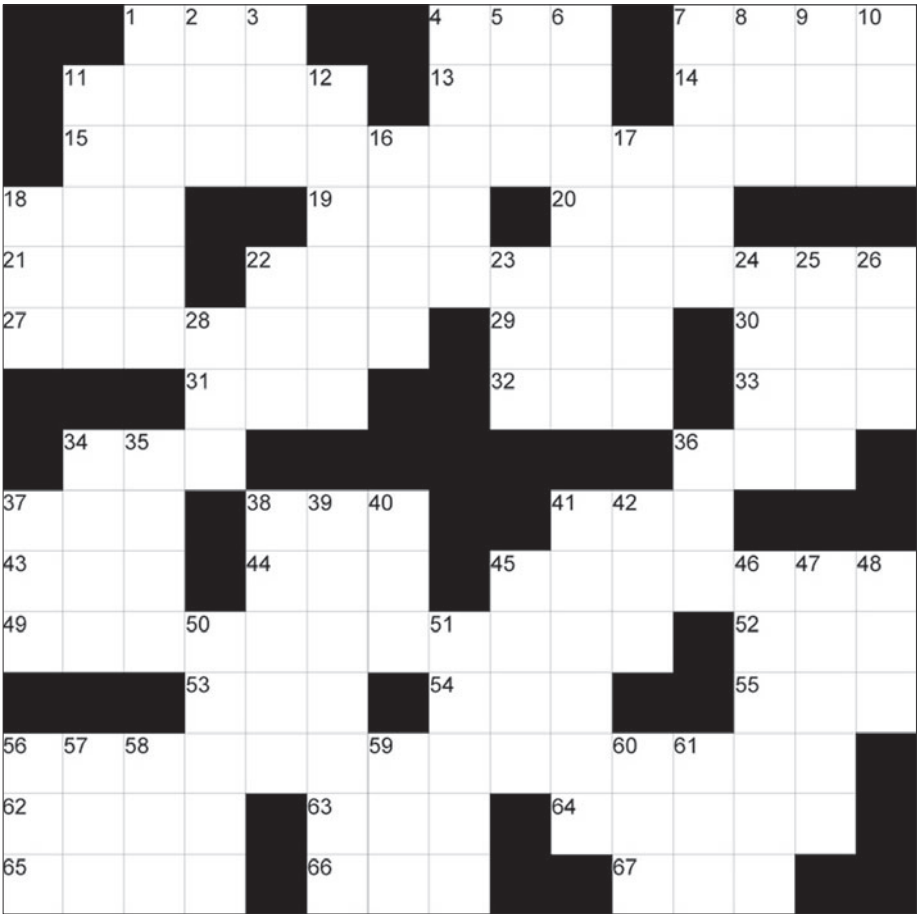
### Across

1. Accord or Escort  
4. Guitar player need  
7. Crazes  
11. Wise ones  
13. North American fish; needlefish  
14. Date to beware for Caesar  
15. 1991 humanitarian relief mission in Iraq  
18. Operation \_\_\_ Angel; 1991 humanitarian relief operation in Bangladesh  
19. Jog  
20. \_\_\_ Shorty  
21. Galoot  
22. 1992 humanitarian relief mission in Somalia  
27. “\_\_\_\_\_Arms;” command to salute  
29. Horse food  
30. Embroider  
31. Asner and Norton  
32. U.K. equivalent to U.S.S.

33. Confederate general  
34. Dramatize  
36. Internet provider  
37. Gun lobby  
38. Compute  
41. Director Howard  
43. Knee ligament, in short; common sports injury  
44. Zodiac sign  
45. Nickname for D.C.  
49. 1999 humanitarian relief operation in Kosovo  
52. Pie \_\_\_ mode  
53. \_\_\_ Ghraib  
54. Army equivalent to OPR  
55. Edge  
56. 1992 humanitarian relief operation in Yugoslavia  
62. Radiance  
63. Before, poetically  
64. Kitchen wrap  
65. Fishing item  
66. ER attendants  
67. Inexperienced

### Down

1. Decanter  
2. A long time \_\_\_...  
3. Gun the motor  
4. Government representative  
5. Actor Bernie \_\_\_  
6. Schedule  
7. The \_\_\_ Element  
8. Stir  
9. German article  
10. Concorde, in short  
11. Skewer  
12. Sea nymphs  
16. Cloud of fine, dry particles  
17. Coincides



18. Drench in a liquid  
22. Ssea between Africa and Arabian Peninsula  
23. Cry of satisfaction  
24. Norwegian capital  
25. \_\_\_ off; doff  
26. Ram’s mate  
28. Place  
34. St. Louis landmark  
35. Columbian city  
36. Picnic pest  
37. USN equivalent to AFB  
38. Excuse  
39. Disrobed  
40. Pet

41. Copies  
42. Bullring cheer  
45. Dutch settler in Africa  
46. \_\_\_ Pact; NATO opponent at one time  
47. Foreigner  
48. Sweet potato  
50. History or ship preceder  
51. \_\_\_ and dreams  
56. Even score  
57. Lament  
58. Mining goal  
59. Mistake  
60. Damage  
61. Retirement acct.



July 28 solutions





## Mouthguards represent a safe option

Mouthguards are commonly used by football and hockey players, but what about other athletes?

Could baseball or basketball players also benefit from wearing a mouthguard?

In fact, anyone who participates in a sport that could result in physical contact should wear a mouthguard. Mouthguards can cushion a blow to the face, minimizing the risk of broken teeth and injuries to the soft tissues of the mouth.

A mouthguard generally covers only the upper teeth. Some athletes, though, like those who wear braces or who have a protruding jaw may need a mouthguard for the lower teeth as well.

There are three types of mouthguards, stock, boil and bite and custom fitted. Stock mouthguards are inexpensive and come pre-formed, ready to wear. They can be purchased at most sporting goods stores and popped straight into the mouth before sporting activities. Unfortunately, unlike a properly fitted mouthgaurd, they may not fit very well and can

make talking and breathing difficult.

Boil and bite mouthguards can also be purchased at most sporting goods stores and may offer a better fit than stock mouthguards. They should be softened in warm water then inserted and allowed to adapt to the shape of your mouth.

Custom-fitted mouthguards are made by dental providers. They cost more than the other versions, but because they are custom-made they offer a better fit than the other options.

Athletes who have braces, porcelain crowns or fixed bridge work should especially consider custom-fitted mouthguards. These mouthguards can be fabricated for interested active duty members by contacting the 3rd Dental Squadron at 580-5010 or by requesting one during an annual examination appointment.

In support of the intramural football season, the 3rd DS staff have provided the base Fitness Center with boil and bite mouthguards. Active duty members can contact the Fitness Center at 552-3504, to receive a free mouthguard for the season.

*(Courtesy of the 3rd Dental Squadron)*

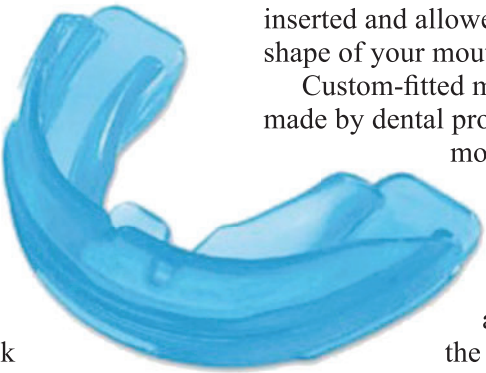


PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN GARRETT HOTHAN

## Afternoon jog

**Stephen Autry, 3rd Communications Squadron, takes an afternoon jog down the streets of Elmendorf. Anyone running on base must run against the flow of traffic.**

**They should also wear reflective, or light color material in low-light conditions.**

## Sport Shorts

### Gymnastics, cheerleading

Gymnastics and cheerleading classes are available for children ages 18 months and older at the Youth Center.

Instruction is available for beginners, intermediate and advanced levels. Prices range from \$40-\$110 a month depending on level of instruction.

All classes are one day a week.

For more information, call 552-2266.

### New bowling league

Anyone interested in participating in a mixed bowling league on Saturdays should call the Polar Bowl at 552-3669.

### Elmendorf Ice Eagles hockey

Fall registration for the Elmendorf Ice Eagles starts in August. Anyone interested in playing must get their USA Hockey registration at [www.usahockey.com/adult/main\\_site/main/adult\\_registration](http://www.usahockey.com/adult/main_site/main/adult_registration).

Players must also have a hockey ID. For more information on an ID, call Annetta Powell at 275-5715.

To prepare for the upcoming season, the teams have scheduled ice time

at 6 p.m. Aug. 4 and 8, at 5:15 Aug. 12 and 9:15 Aug. 18.

For more information on the Ice Eagles C team, call John Hatch at 552-3194. For information about the novice team, call Ryan Hill at 729-3799.

### Sports physicals

The 3rd Medical Group Pediatric Clinic in cooperation with Family Practice is extending additional appointments for School and Sports physicals from Aug. 14-25. These appointments are open to all Tricare Prime members. Please be sure to tell the appointment clerks that this is for a school or sports physical.

To make an appointment, call 580-2778.

### Spinning certification, continuing education class

The Fitness Center is hosting a spinning certification and continuing education class at 9 a.m. Sept. 23-24 in the spinning room.

Anyone interested can sign up at the spinning Web site at [www.spinning.com/instructors](http://www.spinning.com/instructors) or call Matt Livingston at 552-3504.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN JONATHAN STEFFEN

## Arctic Belly Dance

**Brenda McLeary demonstrates proper Middle Eastern dance moves July 21 at the Arctic Oasis. The classes are taught in eight-week sessions and cost \$40 per session. For more information, contact McLeary at 338-6867 or 230-3042.**